

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5-6, 2003**

**STATE BOARD ROOM
1ST FLOOR, CAPITAL PLAZA TOWER
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held its regular meeting on February 5-6, 2003. The February 5 session was held in the Ground Floor Auditorium, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky and the February 6 session was held in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The Board conducted the following business:

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Helen Mountjoy called the Board meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Alcie Combs, Dorie Combs, Gail Henson, Jeff Mando, Sue Hodges Moore, Helen Mountjoy, and Samuel Robinson. Janice Allen, Hilma Prather and Keith Travis joined the meeting in progress later in the morning following their session with the General Assembly. Paul Whalen joined the meeting on the second day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Mountjoy indicated that there had been technical corrections made to the December 11-12, 2002, regular meeting minutes and asked if there were other suggested changes from other Board members. Gail Henson then moved to approve the December 11-12, 2002, regular meeting minutes to include the technical corrections mentioned by Chair Mountjoy and Samuel Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next, Dorie Combs moved approval of the November 13, 2002, special meeting minutes and Alcie Combs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

***REPORT FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION***

Interim President Sue Hodges-Moore reported that postsecondary education had been asked to testify on the impact of the proposed 9.2% budget cut and emphasized this will

impact all agencies. She went on to say that along with Chair Helen Mountjoy, Norma Adams signed the Partnership in Education's resolution. Hodges-Moore noted that Peggy Bartelsman would be sending a letter to all legislators on the importance of P-16 efforts. She also called attention to the fact that the GEARUP program is going well and explained that this program is aimed at low-income middle school and high school students. Hodges-Moore then highlighted that Kentucky is working with five other states to determine how student learning is measured at the postsecondary level. Her final item dealt with the fact that the proposals for the grants on professional development are due to the Council on Postsecondary Education on February 7 and she indicated 21 intents to submit a proposal had been received.

Jeff Mando indicated that the Council on Postsecondary Education has been working hard just as the Department has in trying to work through these tight fiscal times. He said he was concerned whether the current budget situation would prevent certain kids from being able to afford college. Mando asked if there had been any discussion by the Council on Postsecondary Education of the impact that possible tuition raises could have on students.

Sue Hodges-Moore replied that the college presidents did testify before the legislature that if the proposed budget cuts were implemented students would be looking at double-digit increases. She emphasized that the Council on Postsecondary Education is very concerned about this prospect.

Next, Samuel Robinson asked when the Board could expect some report on the effectiveness of the GEARUP program.

Commissioner Wilhoit replied that he felt a report could be placed on the Board's fall calendar for a status report.

REPORT FROM THE PRE-K TO 16 COUNCIL

Gail Henson indicated that the Council had not conducted another meeting since the Board's last report.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Commissioner Wilhoit indicated that he would be dealing with the following four issues: minority hiring report, scholastic audit reviews, the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and the budget.

Relative to the minority hiring report, the Commissioner said that at the last Board meeting, some districts had not filed the report and as a result, Chair Mountjoy sent a letter to these districts asking them to get the report filed and to appear before the Board. He said he was glad to report that all have now submitted the required data.

Next, the Commissioner reported that the Department has completed the major task of scholastic audits on Level 3 schools and scholastic reviews on Level 2 schools. He also indicated that staff would be auditing some high performing schools to check the accuracy of the instrument. Wilhoit said that 141 audits and reviews had been completed over the last four months and indicated that some resources were shifted in order to get this done. He felt this had been valuable professional development for Department staff and reported that the schools have been very positive about the audits and reviews. The Commissioner clarified that the Department only had to do 60 of these per the regulations, but completed 141. He commended staff for this excellent work.

The next item highlighted by the Commissioner was the submission of Kentucky's preliminary application to the United States Department of Education in response to the *No Child Left Behind Act*. He noted that Board members should have received a copy of the submission and said a call was received yesterday from the federal level in order to set up the peer review visit in March or April. He promised he would let Board members know the date when it becomes finalized. The Commissioner commented that he believes the preliminary application holds to the integrity of Kentucky's education program. He shared that all 50 states met the submission deadline for the preliminary application.

Dorie Combs commented that she had a question from a superintendent a couple weeks ago who felt that the way the preliminary application was written would set districts up to lose federal dollars.

Commissioner Wilhoit responded that staff did have specific guidelines to follow from the *No Child Left Behind Act* and noted that there is no doubt the federal government will hold schools accountable for subpopulation improvement. He explained that staff feel what was proposed is fair and in line with what Kentucky is trying to accomplish. Wilhoit noted that the safe harbor provision will provide a cushion; however, he emphasized that the harsh reality is that if subpopulation improvement is not met, the school will not meet adequate yearly progress and if this is not turned around, there is the threat of losing funds.

Dorie Combs then questioned if there would be an automatic loss of funds if some of the plan's provisions are not acceptable or if negotiations will take place.

Commissioner Wilhoit responded that there seems to be more of a willingness by the federal officials for dialogue on issues where agreement does not exist.

The last topic covered by the Commissioner was the budget situation. He indicated that the Governor will present his budget proposal to the legislature tonight and will attempt to impact the deficit with some reductions but also propose revenue increases. The Commissioner noted that the Department's advice to schools this spring is to work from a conservative point of view and he assured the Board that he is communicating almost weekly with superintendents on the status of the budget situation.

Samuel Robinson asked if there was a possibility due to the budget crisis for the Department to lose some federal funds.

Commissioner Wilhoit explained that the one program the Department must match is the School and Community Nutrition Program. He explained that the Department has asked the legislature to hold this program harmless. He continued that the health and life insurance and teacher retirement programs will also be required to be held harmless and will cause cuts to other programs.

At this point Gail Henson expressed her gratitude to all Department staff who were involved in putting the preliminary application for the *No Child Left Behind Act* together.

GOOD NEWS

Chair Helen Mountjoy offered congratulations to Elizabeth Fletcher, State Vice President of Jobs for Kentucky's Graduates who won first place public speaking honors at the Jobs for America's Graduates National Student Leadership Awards. Mountjoy noted that Fletcher is a student at Sheldon Clark High School in Martin County and pointed out that this is the second year in a row for a student from this Kentucky high school to win first place honors in this national event. She went on to say that Elizabeth has been nominated for the Jobs for America's Graduates National Chair Award.

Next, Mountjoy offered congratulations to Bardstown Independent School Board Member Margie Bradford, who has received national recognition for her work to promote healthier students. She explained that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently named Bradford one of 27 National Healthy Schools Heroes. Chair Mountjoy noted that Ms. Bradford is a registered nurse who first got involved as a PTO member trying to help a school secure a nurse for the school district and to get crosswalks and crossing guard for the school. She went on to say that Margie Bradford has been on her local board since 1979, has served as KSBA president and as a board member and health chair for the National School Boards Association. Mountjoy commented that Ms. Bradford serves on the Healthy Schools Network along with Samuel Robinson.

The next round of congratulations were given to State Senator Dan Kelly, who was recognized as this year's recipient of the Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Awards from the Reading Recovery Council of North America. Ms. Mountjoy indicated that Kelly, who serves as the Kentucky Senate's Majority Leader, was recognized for his commitment to literacy efforts and work to make sure all kids get a strong foundation in reading.

The final piece of Good News, Mountjoy said, would come from Tom Bennett, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife. She asked Commissioner Bennett to come forward.

Commissioner Bennett explained to the Board that Kentucky is in the lead on a program that Commissioner Wilhoit has supported. He commented that it is a struggle to get the message to every student about this program and he gave Board members a video

showing how students want to attend school and behave because of the archery program. Bennett noted that 49 states have contacted Kentucky about this program and said that seven states will be piloting the program, mirroring Kentucky's model, this spring. He recognized Agnes Durbin and Connie Shackelford from the Department for developing the curriculum and shared that he could not have implemented the program without the help and out-of-box thinking by Gene Wilhoit. At this point, Bennett presented Commissioner Wilhoit with the Wildlife Steward Award.

Helen Mountjoy thanked Commissioner Bennett for being a wonderful partner in this effort.

***POLICIES RELATED TO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMONWEALTH
ACCOUNTABILITY TESTING SYSTEM PERFORMANCE FOR STUDENTS
ATTENDING A2-A6 SCHOOLS***

Chair Mountjoy noted that there was not a great deal of time available to spend on this item today. She indicated that questions had been raised about the appropriateness of sending scores back to the sending school and noted that preparation for the staff note had included interaction with principals from A3, A5, and A6 schools, Jefferson and Fayette County principals and central office staff, the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, the National Technical Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Superintendents Advisory Council, the Principals Advisory Council and District Assessment Coordinators.

Commissioner Wilhoit commented that this was not a simple issue and said staff are looking for direction from the Board. He noted that although principals do want to be held accountable, they saw some problem areas. Sometimes, he said, principals are involved in the placement process and sometimes an outside entity places these students in a school. The Commissioner indicated the policy could be left as is or the Board could direct staff to make a change. The Commissioner expressed he felt that placement by a district in another school in that district is best worked out between the district and the school. However, he said that adjudication is another matter and perhaps should be treated differently.

Benny Lile of the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council indicated that the District Assessment Coordinators and the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council did not have a problem with direct line placement of these students but was concerned about those placed by the court or other entities.

Gail Henson noted that she appreciated the time and attention given to this issue by staff. She said that the text on page 24, the last paragraph, points to the central need of a school being aware of these students. Henson felt that the more flexibility available dealing with this issue within a new policy the better.

Dorie Combs agreed with Henson and said there seem to be students in these situations that don't fit our accountability model.

Gail Henson thought that there needs to be a way to assist schools when there is not a robust relationship between the two schools to benefit students.

Hilma Prather said she was interested in Option 2b.

Helen Mountjoy explained that when the Board initially set the policy on A2-A6 schools, a conscious decision was made designating the school as the unit of accountability and requiring some entity to be accountable for each child. She said that by statute, the Board is responsible to make sure each child is part of the accountability system. Mountjoy asked if staff should pursue a method to hold the sending school and the special program accountable.

Commissioner Wilhoit felt that the Board would not want to abandon the precept of adults being held accountable for each child.

Jeff Mando asked relative to Option 2b if staff knows how many students are placed by outside agencies.

Lois Adams-Rodgers replied that the number is about 3,500 children and stated that many more are passed through the system at different points.

Mr. Mando then asked how KECSAC interplays with this issue.

Commissioner Wilhoit responded if the Board comes up with an accountability system that responds to the concerns of A1 schools, the question still remains who will be accountable for these students, whether it be KECSAC or others.

Chair Mountjoy asked that the Board think about this topic and share any ideas with Department staff. She noted that staff should pursue development of Option 2b plus develop criteria for holding A2-A6 schools accountable along with A1 schools.

Janice Allen added that in her local district, there is a practicing family court that is working well in the placement of these students.

***PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO IMPROVING
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR HEARING AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
STUDENTS STATEWIDE AND AT THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
AND THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF***

Helen Mountjoy announced that the next item would be an update on improving education for hearing impaired and visually impaired students. She noted that Board members have read the materials in the Agenda Book and have had a discussion over the past two and half years on the responsibility of providing a high quality education for all students, including visually impaired and hearing impaired students. Mountjoy reminded Board members that a report on these issues had come from consultants through a study. She then asked the Commissioner for general comments on this topic.

Commissioner Wilhoit stated that the Department has a whole team of staff to hear any concerns that the Board may have and is a long way from finalizing the plans relative to visually impaired and hearing impaired students.

Next, Mountjoy asked staff members at the presenters' table if they had anything specific to highlight or if Board members had questions.

Dorie Combs asked staff to explain how they went about choosing the individuals to be members of the stakeholders groups.

Barbara Kibler replied that staff tried to honor requests for specific groups as well as use knowledge of the areas where people worked. She went on to say that ensuring a diverse makeup for each group both racially and geographically was also considered. Kibler noted that since more names were submitted than could be used, some of the names not placed on the groups will be asked to participate in focus groups.

Relative to page 60 in the Agenda Book, Keith Travis asked when results from the Center for School Safety audit would be available. Barb Kibler replied that there was still one more piece to complete and that it would be out soon.

Travis went on to say that if the Kentucky Board of Education says it is the board of record for the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf, there needs to be clarification on how the Board interacts with the schools compared to how local boards interact with school districts.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland responded that the Kentucky Board of Education approves the budget for the two schools.

Keith Travis said he was aware of the budget approval but felt the state board has not pursued the fine details that local boards do.

Helen Mountjoy felt further clarification was needed on what the Board's responsibility is in decision making relative to the two schools.

Keith Travis went on to say that normally local boards review facility plans, approve disposal of surplus property, and other such items and pointed out that the state board is not involved in any of these issues.

Kevin Noland said that in the past, the Kentucky Board of Education has not gotten involved in that level of detail but could choose to do so in the future.

At this point, Gail Henson asked staff to clarify on page 60 of the agenda book just how many students are being referenced at KSB and KSD.

Associate Commissioner Johnnie Grissom replied that at KSB there are 53 residential students and at KSD there are 69. She went on to say that at KSB there are 27 day students and at KSD there are 52. Relative to statewide outreach, Grissom said that KSB has 155 and KSD has 43.

Jeff Mando emphasized that before the Board can begin to implement the AIR study recommendations with the available resources, there needs to be an accurate count of visually impaired and hearing impaired students. He said there might be some students not getting services because they are not yet identified.

Barbara Kibler responded that staff does not have this information yet but is working to get more accurate numbers.

Next, Samuel Robinson asked how many names were submitted for the stakeholders groups. Barbara Kibler responded that 500 names were received.

Gene Wilhoit went on to inquire how many were chosen to serve out of the 500. Kibler replied that staff is looking at 18 groups with 30 in each group.

Helen Mountjoy inquired if the family involvement group's work would be limited to the description on page 63 in the Agenda Book. Barbara Kibler replied that the topics were only used to organize information for the Board and said that not all the groups have started meeting. She said that staff are working on the different initiatives and feeding information into the groups. Mountjoy went on to say that staff needs to make sure the list of activities in the Agenda Book are not the sum total of the work of the groups. Barbara Kibler assured Mountjoy that these were just activities as of this date.

Commissioner Wilhoit said he wanted to push this issue a little further and emphasized staff need to make sure the individuals assigned to these committees have the opportunity to design the work of the committee. Johnnie Grissom replied that this is the intent of staff.

Commissioner Wilhoit went on to say that the Board's initial charge was to involve the community in the design of the work and not for the work to be driven by Department staff.

Barbara Kibler indicated that staff have six questions to pose to each committee and then any additional work that the committee feels necessary can be added. She assured the Board that staff are only providing direction and not driving the work of the committee.

Wilton McMillan then shared that he had the pleasure of being at the Jefferson County cooperative last night and commented he was amazed at what services are available in that community. He noted that it is unfortunate that other areas of the state are not so fortunate and said that one teacher of the visually impaired was moved by seeing all agencies coming together for the first time.

Dorie Combs asked if any concerns had been expressed about discontinuing services for K-8 and thought perhaps a separate group was needed on this topic. Barb Kibler said that both KSB and KSD have established their own school improvement plans and indicated she felt that with the other groups, there did not need to be a separate group on discontinuing services for K-8.

Gail Henson emphasized that one of the fears expressed to her through a lot of emails is that these schools will be closed.

Barb Kibler stated that the Department has no plans to close these schools because placement decisions for these students are made by the admissions and release committees locally and not the Department.

Next, Hilma Prather asked for clarification about not hiring superintendents for the two schools.

Commissioner Wilhoit replied that the issue for him is if there are sufficient administrative services available on both campuses. He explained that each campus has a campus manager, a principal and eight personnel at one school and nine at the other performing administrative functions. The Commissioner indicated there are sufficient administrative positions to manage that function. He went on to say there also needs to be a state linkage and that there is a former administrator serving in that capacity. Wilhoit commented there need to be enough people assigned to get the job done and whether these people are doing their jobs sufficiently is another matter. He said that he must look at the overall allocation for the schools and pointed out that these schools have not been impacted with personnel and budget cuts.

Helen Mountjoy stated that over 20 positions were reduced at the Department due to budget problems.

Gail Henson noted that there were some concerns that the AIR study recommendations sealed the fate of what is to be done at the schools and that decisions have already been made.

Barbara Kibler responded that the AIR report was a needs assessment and said that staff are looking at how to implement the recommendations through the stakeholder groups. She emphasized no decision has been made on how services will be implemented.

Johnnie Grissom added that Department staff are not the facilitators for the stakeholder groups and that outside people have been hired for this purpose.

Commissioner Wilhoit emphasized that no decision will be made by staff on how the AIR report recommendations will be implemented before proposals come back to the Kentucky Board of Education for consideration. He did feel that that because lots of folks want to express their opinion on these issues, the timeline for the work of the stakeholder groups may have to be extended.

Helen Mountjoy had one more question for staff relative to what efforts are being made to make sure the materials for the stakeholder groups are available in a format that the participants need.

Barbara Kibler responded that staff are trying to work on sources for interpreters and for materials in Braille and large print. She said that part of the problem is knowing the different needs of folks in the different groups.

Chair Mountjoy noted that the Board's concern is that nobody is denied participation because of the format needed not being available.

Jeff Mando shared that the process the Board is going through is not a facade and that he wants to make sure it produces the best possible information on which to make a decision. Mando emphasized that the Board does not intend to rubber stamp any predetermined information.

At this time, Chair Mountjoy asked Charles Boyer to come forward as the speaker representing KSB constituents.

Mr. Boyer pointed out that within today's audience, there are representatives from many advocacy groups for the visually impaired/blind students. He identified himself as a certified teacher of the visually impaired and stated he was pleased to hear that the Board wants to hear viewpoints of others as well as from staff. Boyer commented that the Department's plan overall is a good one, but noted he had three recommendations for changes as follows:

- Add specific language to the plan indicating that placement is done through the IEP process.
- Consider development of a brochure for parents to explain options for services.
- Combine some of the stakeholder groups into a K-12 comprehensive program stakeholder group.

As to the administrative structure of the Kentucky School for the Blind, Boyer expressed objection to the elimination of the superintendent's position. He commented that by eliminating the person in this position, over 30 years of experience was deleted. He said this person was replaced by four people and said that only 25% of the team has experience in working with visually impaired/blind students. Boyer recommended that someone be placed on campus who is in charge of the program and has experience in working in the visually impaired/blind arena. Also, he pointed out that if staff is reallocated and dollars are sent to administrating regional services, this could diminish services at the Kentucky School for the Blind. He advocated a cost analysis be done to determine if this type of shift is merited.

Boyer concluded by saying that the constituency group he was representing felt like they have not be heard, but noted they do respect what the Board is trying to do and want to work with the Board. He asked that Board members consider the recommendations he presented.

Helen Mountjoy thanked Mr. Boyer for speaking and attending the meeting.

REPORT ON EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT ISSUES INCLUDING FUTURE EDUCATOR CLUBS

Chair Mountjoy gave a special welcome to Carol Gabbard, former Kentucky Board of Education member, who was present to be part of this presentation. Also present were Lucian Yates, Tim Hanner and Lois Adams-Rodgers. Tim Hanner began by saying there are a lot of exciting things going on to inspire students to be teachers and today staff will share those opportunities as well as how to expand them in the future.

Lucian Yates then shared that 25% of all educators in Kentucky could leave in six months and that in four years, 10,000 teachers will be needed to replace ones who are no longer there. Yates emphasized that teachers in this volume are not available from the supply side of the universities. Therefore, he pointed out that the way to address this teacher shortage problem is early identification of students and urging them to go to college to pursue a teaching career. Yates indicated that future educator clubs are a part of this early identification strategy. At this point, Dr. Yates pointed out an article in the Board's packet on how to recruit teachers in rural areas. He indicated that the article suggests communities must grow their own teachers and commented this is the approach used in the Department's early identification efforts. Dr. Yates noted that the Commissioner met with the deans of education from the various colleges and universities and urged them to get involved in recruitment. He stated that he is now working with that group and they have set goals for recruitment efforts. Yates identified the first goal as having one FEA club in every high school by 2006-2007 and one FEA club in every middle school by 2010-2011. As part of the method to meet these goals, Dr. Yates indicated that the Department and Eastern Kentucky University entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for a special project that Dr. Carol Gabbard is heading. He shared that training had occurred at Indiana University by Phi Delta Kappa and a

weeklong camp was held for colleges and universities. Dr. Yates noted that the Kentucky conference will be held next November and an FEA conference will be held in conjunction with the Teacher Forum. Yates then moved on to the issue of dual credit and indicated that a pilot was occurring in every interested university. Dr. Yates said that he is working with KCTCS on courses for students to become paraprofessionals or teachers.

Next, Dr. Gabbard shared some of her work and indicated that Kentucky now has the largest number of FEA charters in the nation. She said that her mission and vision is to work as a liaison for higher education. Gabbard reported that the deans of education have embraced the FEA concept and support it and noted most public universities have someone designated as an FEA contact person. Dr. Gabbard pointed out that the deans of education have been asked to provide support for students, sponsor visitations to their campuses including special attention from the colleges of education, hold a Future Teacher's Day, have regional meetings on campuses, conduct a summer camp, agree on a Kentucky model for dual credit and provide assistance in training to FEA club advisors. Gabbard emphasized that the most exciting thing about this project is the collaboration she has seen among the different partners and agencies.

Tim Hanner added that the word is getting out about these efforts and commented it is an easy sell that has little cost attached. He noted these efforts can be of great benefit to schools and districts and said we need to celebrate the success of this program.

Jeff Mando noted that on the map given to Board members showing where FEA clubs exist, Boone County had no clubs. Tim Hanner replied that the superintendent has been pushing for this and stated Carol Gabbard has been working on the university connection to make this happen.

Jeff Mando continued that on page 66 of the Agenda Book dealing with reciprocity, this concept could be a double-edged issue. Mando felt that Kentucky could lose teachers to other states if this came about.

Gene Wilhoit said that staff looked at this issue around the Ohio area and found that Kentucky is not losing new teachers but instead the ones with 5-6 years experience. He said that Ohio is reaping the benefits of Kentucky's training and experience.

Gail Henson indicated that she would like to see staff and Dr. Gabbard work with independent colleges at some point because these have significant number of students in the teacher education programs.

IMPLEMENTATION OF KETS IN KENTUCKY SCHOOLS

Commissioner Wilhoit noted that there would be four issues discussed during this topic as follows: Phase I completion, follow-up on monitoring, progress in Jefferson County and where we are going with Phase II.

Chair Mountjoy then asked what must be done to complete Phase I of KETS.

Associate Commissioner David Couch began by noting it was a one billion dollar cost to do Phase I with 650 million dollars of the amount being student costs. He then went over Attachment C in the Agenda Book that showed the process staff went through with districts to make sure they knew obligations relative to technology once KETS funds were received. He emphasized there should be no excuses that they do not have the dollars or do not know about their obligations. Couch continued that his staff has contacted districts recently and noted compliance has increased within the last few days. He then gave Board members a district-by-district list showing the percent of completion of KETS Phase I for each school district. Couch summarized the main reasons for non-completion as fear of student or teacher behaviors and lack of trust. He said that staff have tried to address how to overcome these fears with districts. Couch then moved on to page three of the staff note that listed three items that must be completed by all districts as part of Phase I. These items were equity of access to classroom phones for teachers, equity of access to student email for students and equity of access outside the normal school day. Couch emphasized that districts cannot get to the point of maximization of their technology until it is turned on, people know it is turned on and then the use of it is championed. He clarified that the district by district list shows the items have been purchased and turned on, but don't necessarily mean that people know these items are there.

Commissioner Wilhoit stated he felt that the Board should ask all districts on the list to do the following: verify the accuracy of the report; by July 1, 2003, submit a plan for full compliance; and be able to ask the Department to provide assistance in completing tasks and in developing local policy to overcome perceived barriers. Jeff Mando moved to include the Commissioner's recommendations in the form of a motion and Dorie Combs seconded it. The motion carried.

The next topic covered was the monitoring of implementation and David Couch shared that staff did look at a detailed monitoring plan, but said the costs were prohibitive. He noted that the staff note describes what staff can do and feels there is a high level of confidence in the collected data as to its accuracy. Couch emphasized that to do other types of monitoring would require additional funds, which are not available at this time.

Helen Mountjoy asked the Commissioner if he felt the monitoring approach was adequate. Commissioner Wilhoit replied affirmatively and said staff will deal with specific problems as they arise.

Relative to Jefferson County's progress, David Couch reported that implementation of MUNIS and STI are on target.

The last portion of this topic dealt with Phase II of KETS. Commissioner Wilhoit characterized this phase as developing a support system that results in the maximum use of technology and improvement of learning. He pointed out that the ten items to be accomplished during Phase II listed in the staff note and said he hoped this captures the essence of what will take us to a higher level. Wilhoit indicated one area that will result

in a huge expense is the infrastructure to the support system. He commented that the system is still running on old copper lines and must move to a fiber system. The Commissioner noted that unfortunately only elementary and secondary and higher education are pushing for the replacement of the lines.

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Management Support and Learning Support/Learning Results Committees met from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 6, 2003

POLICY DISCUSSION ON REFOCUSING SECONDARY EDUCATION

Commissioner Wilhoit indicated this presentation will give the Board a sense of the point to which we have come since the last discussion on this topic. He asked Johnnie Grissom and Lois Adams-Rodgers to come forward for this topic.

Deputy Commissioner Lois Adams-Rodgers said this initiative is designed to refocus secondary education on proficiency and beyond. She shared that the work is framed around the basic question “What does it take to make high school a more powerful experience?” Adams-Rodgers indicated that this guiding question was used recently at a meeting on February 3 where 40 people from the high school reform sites came together with representatives of KCTCS, postsecondary education and internal staff. She shared that the group looked at what barriers must be eliminated as well as what conditions must be in place to make high school a more powerful experience. Responses from the group, Adams-Rodgers reported, gave insight about who is missing from the table, what things the practitioners are seeing in their work that would be helpful and suggestions on how the group can help the Department frame the vision of making high school a more powerful experience. She reported that the leads of the group are Jennifer Scarborough, Linda Pittenger and Dr. Nick Brake, formerly of the Daviess County Schools who now heads up Discover College for the Owensboro Community and Technical College System. Deputy Commissioner Adams-Rodgers said that the work of this group would build on the work of one of the Department’s cross-agency teams as well as the previous work from 1992. She stated staff would come back to the Board with an action plan once the work of this group is completed.

Dr. Johnnie Grissom added that this group is offering policy suggestions that they feel would remove barriers to making high school a more powerful experience.

Gail Henson then asked a question relative to Point 2, page 173 of the Agenda Book pertaining to the community piece between the child, counselor and parent. She felt this piece was extremely important and asked how it would be pursued. Johnnie Grissom responded that staff would work with folks in honing their skills to implement the Individual Graduation Plan.

Commissioner Wilhoit went on to say that one other aspect of the Individual Graduation Plan is that many schools don't have a system to support this plan and stated some schools are going to have to figure out how to get this done.

Helen Mountjoy then asked that staff furnish the Board with a list of the high school reform sites.

Keith Travis emphasized that all areas needed to be included in this study such as facilities, athletics, counseling, etc., because it is time to think outside the box and be comprehensive.

Janice Allen noted that the advisor/advisee program is an integral part of this issue.

Dorie Combs felt that a focus on dropout prevention and making sure each student has an adult mentor all through high school in addition to the counselor must be included to address the emotional and academic growth of students.

Helen Mountjoy cautioned that staff needs to make sure that adherence to content of the Program of Studies is not ignored. She explained that some people think they are offering appropriate courses but need a reemphasis on the appropriate content and level of instruction.

Samuel Robinson suggested that the study also give importance to taking advantage of community resources.

Hilma Prather went on to say that the study needs to include the important component of parent involvement and finding ways to make parents aware of the Individual Graduation Plan and consequences of not taking rigorous coursework. She also reiterated what Dorie Combs had suggested about having one adult responsible for overseeing the social, emotional and academic growth of a student. Prather noted that this contributes to school safety.

Helen Mountjoy then summarized she assumed what staff are after is to collect what is working in successful sites and to identify what the essential elements for high schools are. She suggested that the Board may need to discuss these at some point and thought it will be tricky to keep the group's focus on the big picture. Mountjoy emphasized in the Board's strategic plan there is the overall goal of proficiency with shorter term things that contribute to the big goal.

Gail Henson commented that when students get to high school and have reading problems, this causes difficulty. She noted that students need to be competent readers so that they can be critical readers when they enter postsecondary education.

Lois Adams-Rodgers then agreed with Helen Mountjoy in that the focus of the initiative must be on the outcome with the essential elements needed in order to reach that outcome.

Gene Wilhoit added there is a history of reform in the last 30 years that has lost sight of the goal. He stated the focus must be kept on results and emphasized there will be tension in working through this process. Wilhoit felt that the barriers are elusive and that instructional practices are at the heart of this matter.

Helen Mountjoy stated that it would also be important to enlist more partners in this effort.

Commissioner Wilhoit asked to add one final comment in that most people are happy with the status quo in high schools. He indicated that staff must step back and think about this level of schooling very differently. Wilhoit said he would push this group to seek out new models.

Helen Mountjoy asked that a message go back to those working with staff that there is a feeling of frustration from those that spent a lot of time in 1992 working on high school reform when the result of the work was put on a shelf. She cautioned that staff needs to make sure this does not happen with this effort.

APPROVAL OF ACTION/CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Mountjoy asked for a motion to approve the action/consent items. Alcie Combs moved to approve the following items:

- Local district facility plans
- Local district facility plan amendments
- 2002-2003 Local district working budget for Paducah Independent

Gail Henson seconded the motion and it carried.

LEARNING SUPPORT/LEARNING RESULT COMMITTEE REPORT

Review Items

1. **Primary program evaluation discussion: “Characteristics and Attributes of Primary Program and Practices”.** Committee Chair Gail Henson indicated that the report studied several schools and shared that her committee focused on the need for the Department and the Board to provide professional development on continuous progress, especially for the principal.

Division Director Brenda Hauser then summarized the key issues from the study including:

- Assessment is not done well in primary.
- Continuous progress tells teachers where to proceed with students.
- Professional development must be implemented not only for teachers but for the principal.
- Strong leadership is key to a successful primary program.
- Family involvement is critical but is not as strong as it needs to be.

Helen Mountjoy asked if we learned anything new from this phase of the study. Brenda Hauser replied that it did become apparent that if schools concentrate on continuous progress, the other elements seem to fall into place. Mountjoy continued that what frustrates her is that after 12 years, much of this information is self-evident.

Dorie Combs pointed out that the study says multi-age grouping works but many classroom teachers do not think it does. She emphasized that professional development is essential to making multi-age grouping successful.

Gail Henson then raised the issue of children not being able to be tested for learning disabilities until they go through the primary program in some districts. Helen Mountjoy responded that this statement is not true and said the Department needs to get the word out to clarify this.

Commissioner Wilhoit replied that he would disseminate a piece on this immediately and said it is a misconception. He pointed out that it indicates there is a disconnect between what the Department is trying to do and the information that gets to teachers.

Chair Mountjoy continued that having lived and breathed primary for so many years, it has grieved her to see many schools retreat back into their comfort zones. She suggested that the Department really needs to ratchet up the attention that is given to primary implementation.

2. **Evaluation of Kentucky's Extended School Services Program Conducted by AEL.** Chair Gail Henson asked staff to make comments about this agenda item. Jennifer Scarborough reported that five of the seven recommendations from the study are being addressed through the program waiver provision that has recently become available to school districts through legislative action in the last session.

Gail Henson then noted that the study does point out a lot of barriers are taken care by the new daytime program available through a waiver request. However, she said the committee feels the program still needs work through staff development and showcasing best practices. Henson noted that STI is being revised to accommodate collecting the right kind of data to provide more information for making program decisions about the Extended School Services program.

Commissioner Wilhoit noted that the purpose of this study was to identify best practices in schools that are getting results. He stated some perceive the program is not effective. Wilhoit felt the Department is partly to blame because in the past this program has strictly been a compliance approach.

Gail Henson noted that staff shared an action plan with them in the committee meeting and asked them to pass that out to the rest of the Board.

At this point, presenters from Highland Elementary in Christian County and Junction City Elementary in Boyle County shared highlights of their Extended School Services programs with the Board.

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Keith Travis began by sharing that Bridget DeVries of KHSAA had a brief conversation with his committee and noted that the item dealing with paperwork reduction for schools and school districts yielded good news. He then moved on to the one administrative regulation that was on the committee's agenda.

Action/Discussion Items

1. **702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance (Final).** Chair Keith Travis pointed out that the Board received a letter from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council on this regulation and then asked Kyna Koch to address the changes made since the Board's last review.

Ms. Koch started on page 125 of the Agenda Book, lines 1-3, changes were made relative to virtual high school. She pointed out that after the first sentence of line one, the following was inserted: "A student may be counted in attendance for a virtual high school class or block for the year or semester in which the student initially enrolled in the class or block if the final grade for that class or block is passing or above." Koch said the remaining sentence was deleted. Ms. Koch

moved on to page 127, line 9, where the phrase “not holding a high school diploma” was inserted after the word “pupil”.

Chair Travis noted that the committee also talked about researching other methods for counting attendance and shared that staff will be holding meetings with school personnel to get their input on this. He couched this issue as a work in progress and then moved final approval of 702 KAR 7:125. The Board agreed with the motion.

Review Items

1. **Covington Independent Update.** Keith Travis noted that working with a district such as Covington is an opportunity to assist that district and reminded the Board that it approved a Declaration of Emergency for Covington Independent in October. He gave applause to staff that had been working in the district and said they visited there last week and attended the local board meeting. Travis reported the crux of the issue to be a 2.1 million dollar deficit. He noted that the Department’s opinion is that the deficit will be closer will be 2.6-2.7 million dollars, but the district thinks it will be more like 1.9 million dollars. Travis stated that on Saturday, February 8 the local board would be conducting a work session on how to deal with the deficit and that by March 1 the school-based decision making allocation must be set up. Mr. Travis felt that the district is currently set on a course for encountering significant problems and must decide how to change the situation. He indicated that significant guidance needs to be provided to the district, but yet said there is concern about not wanting to be destructive to the morale of the district. However, he emphasized that at the same time the Board cannot wait until the entire district goes down. Travis characterized the most aggressive approach to be state management. He shared that the consensus of his committee was for a letter to be drafted to the board chair and superintendent expressing the Board’s deepest concerns and setting out the expectations, along with an offer of assistance. Travis then opened the discussion to other members’ input.

Chair Mountjoy noted the committee has recommended a letter from the state board go to the local board chair and superintendent. She pointed out that it was necessary to give the opportunity for decision making at the local board level but said at the same time the state board expects the district to adopt a budget that will lead to the elimination of the deficit within a specified time frame. She asked if anyone disagreed with sending the letter and no disagreement existed.

Keith Travis also requested that Helen Mountjoy call the local board chair in addition to sending the letter as one more communication effort.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Chair Mountjoy stated the Board needs to approve an out-of-state trip for Samuel Robinson as a member of the Healthy Schools Network and approve his membership in that network. She explained that NASBE would pay all expenses. Keith Travis so moved and Alcie Combs seconded. The motion carried.

Mountjoy moved on to note that KSBA is holding a dinner and if anyone needs directions, Mary Ann Miller has a map.

Dorie Combs then asked if Board members could attend the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference. Gene Wilhoit replied affirmatively and said to let Mary Ann Miller know which parts they want to attend and she will arrange it.

Samuel Robinson then stated that he would like to see the Board take steps in making sure it monitors the KSB/KSD budget. Gene Wilhoit assured Robinson this would occur.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.